

The Episcopal Diocese of Florida

Policy for Safeguarding Training Programs

At the 74th General Convention of the Episcopal Church, a Pastoral Letter from the Bishops of the Episcopal Church was submitted that states, “We your bishops are steadfastly committed to seeing that the Episcopal Church is a community of safety and health for all people. The Body of Christ, the Church, must be a place where adults, children and young people find the love and blessing of God, and where no one might be hurt and where their hurts may be healed.” This Pastoral Letter was the impetus for the current Safeguarding Programs – *Safeguarding God’s People* and *Safeguarding God’s Children* - that each diocese is required to adopt.

In the Diocese of Florida, the following people are required to attend one or both Safeguarding classes and renew their certification every 5 years. Please note: these lists may not include every position (paid or unpaid):

Mandatory attendance of both *Safeguarding God’s Children & Safeguarding God’s People*

- All clergy canonical or licensed to function in the Diocese of Florida.
- All employees of the Church or Church Agency within 30 days of employment.
- Any person acting in a supervisory capacity:
(i.e., Program Directors – Choral, Music, Youth, Pastoral Care, Day School Teachers, Sunday School Teachers, Teacher’s Aides, Maintenance Workers, Acolyte Coordinators)

Mandatory attendance of *Safeguarding God’s People*

- All employees/volunteers (including clergy) serving in a supervisory capacity:
(i.e., Adult Christian Formation, Pastoral Care Ministries, Visitation Ministry, Eucharistic Visitors, Stephen Ministry)

Mandatory attendance of *Safeguarding God’s Children*

- All employees/volunteers (including clergy) who have interaction with children and youth:
(i.e., Sunday School Teachers, Day School Teachers, Superintendants, Youth Group Leaders/Volunteers/Sponsors, Church Nursery Directors, Nursery Workers, Acolytes, Children’s Choir Directors)

Bishop’s Recommendations

Safeguarding God’s Children & Safeguarding God’s People

- All persons in the congregation or community interested in establishing safe environments

Safeguarding God’s People

- All members of Vestries, Mission Boards, and other policy and governing boards